

Joint venture for export of Brahmos Missiles

911. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with Defence Minister of Russia for joint venture and collaboration in manufacture, supply and export of Brahmos missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features and the cost of Brahmos missiles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is already an inter-Governmental agreement signed in February 1998 between India and Russia for design, development, manufacture and export of Brahmos missile to friendly countries. The joint venture has been established with \$300 million funded by India and Russia in the ratio of 50.5% and 49.5% respectively for development of various versions of the missile.

(c) The Brahmos is a supersonic cruise missile with range of 290 km and high level of performance. The missile has twin roles against sea and land based targets and can be fitted on multiple platforms including ships, submarines, aircraft and mobile ground platforms and also with variable trajectories.

Fake encounters in Army

912. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of fake encounters in the Army is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the exact number of cases registered during the last two years and what action has been taken on them; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to stop these kinds of acts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There is nothing to suggest the involvement of Armed forces in fake killings in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, six cases of alleged fake encounters were reported. Out of these, five cases pertain to the year 2006 and one to the year 2007. A Special investigation team has been constituted by the Government of J&K to look into the allegations. A judicial probe has also been announced.

(c) Security forces dealing with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have been given explicit directions to honour human rights during discharge of duties. Every reported case of alleged human rights violation is investigated promptly and stringent punishment awarded to those found guilty.

Housing schemes for soldiers

†913. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for construction of houses for soldiers is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent thereon;

(c) whether such houses are also likely to be built under any such scheme at Pithauragarh in Uttarakhand;

(d) if so, the number of houses to be built under this scheme and the total amount to be spent thereon;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot such houses to ex-servicemen also; and

(f) if so, the total number of houses likely to be allotted to ex-servicemen, out of the houses to be built at Pithauragarh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) to (f) The Married Accommodation Project envisages the construction of houses for defence services personnel in four phases at a total estimated cost of Rs. 17,358 Crores. Presently, Phase I of the project is in progress. 922 houses are likely to be built at Pithauragarh in Uttarakhand under Phase II of the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 84.37 Crores. There is no proposal to allot houses built under the Married Accommodation Project to ex-servicemen.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.